

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Reply to the Archivist's Letter of 14 July 1978

1. Action Requested: Attached for your signature is a reply to the 14 July 1978 letter from Dr. Rhoads of the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) in which he requests your cooperation and leadership in the preparation of the Agency and Community systematic classification review guidelines required by Executive Order 12065.

2. Background:

a. Executive Order 12065 will go into effect on 1 December. It modifies extensively the present system of classification of national security information, and planning for its implementation involves, among other things, the development of detailed classification and declassification guides.

b. In his letter, Archivist Rhoads urges that in the development of these guidelines an effort be made to develop a degree of consistency in the practices of the various agencies of government in their efforts to protect information concerning intelligence sources and methods. He urges an active role by the DCI in leading this effort to develop consistent guidelines.

c. There is a potential problem which faces us as a result of provisions in the Executive Order authorizing the Archivist of the United States to use the guidelines for systematic declassification prepared by the other agencies of government, including the agencies of the Intelligence Community. Our experience in our declassification program to date causes us to doubt whether it will ever be possible, on matters having to do with the protection of sources and methods, to defer to the judgment of persons without intelligence experience. There may come a time, therefore, when we will want to negotiate arrangements with NARS which will ensure that their use of these guidelines involves close and continuing

consultation with officers from this Agency. The letter which is attached expresses concern about this problem, assures the Archivist that we will consult with NARS on the guidelines, and welcomes the opportunity to work closely with NARS in the development of an effective declassification program.

3. Staff Position: The proposed response to the letter from Dr. Rhoads has been concurred in by the Office of General Counsel and the Chairman, SECOM.

4. Recommendation: That you sign the attached letter to Dr. Rhoads.

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake

Attachment: a/s

Distribution:

Original - Addressee w/att

1 - DDCI w/att

1 - ER w/att

1 - OGC w/att

1 - Chairman, SECOM w/att + *ref.*

1 - ISAS w/att + *ref.*

1 - ISAS/RRB w/att + *ref.*

✓ 1 - DDA Subject w/att + *ref.*

1 - DDA Chrono w/att

1 - AI Chrono w/att

STATINTL DDA/ISAS [redacted] jkb (27 July 78)

STATINTL Rewritten: AI/DDA: [redacted] ydc (2 August 78)

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A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of John F. Blake.

STATINTL

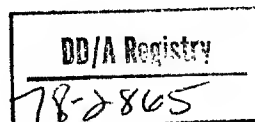
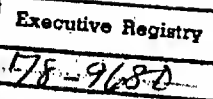
John F. Blake

Attachment: a/s



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Services and
Administration Records Service Washington, DC 20408



JUL 14 1978

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence Agency
National Security Council
Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Admiral Turner:

As you know, on June 28 President Carter signed Executive Order 12065, "National Security Information," which becomes effective on December 1, 1978. Section 3-402 of the Order requires the heads of agencies with classification authority to draw up guidelines for the systematic review of twenty-year-old classified information under their jurisdiction. The guidelines are to be issued within 180 days of the effective date of the Order, that is, by May 30, 1979. In addition, the guidelines are to be issued "after consultation with the Archivist of the United States."

In 1973 and 1974 members of my staff worked with drafting committees of the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) in what proved to be an unsuccessful attempt to prepare declassification guidelines for thirty-year-old intelligence information. That effort failed in part because the issuance of guidelines was not mandatory at the time, and in part because the agencies involved could not resolve their differences over some aspects of the review process.

With the new Order we now have an opportunity, as well as an obligation, to start afresh. All of us concerned with identifying information for release or for continued protection must join to ensure that workable guidelines are developed as soon as possible. You are, I am sure, aware of the fact that as each agency drafts its own guidelines, it will be looking to you for basic guidance on the review of twenty-year-old documents containing information on intelligence sources and methods. Without such guidance we face the continued use of widely divergent guidelines formulated by each agency on an ad hoc basis.

2.

By giving this matter your prompt and personal attention, you could provide the leadership essential to the preparation of substantive guidelines for the review of classified intelligence information. We are, of course, ready to consult with you or with members of your staff at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James B. Rhoads". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

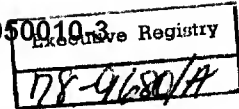
JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

The Deputy Director

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505



7 AUG 1978

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Eighth and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

Thank you for your letter of 14 July 1978 with its comments on the opportunities and obligations created by the issuance of Executive Order 12065 on "National Security Information." I am indeed aware of the special responsibility which falls on me to provide basic guidance on the classification review of documents containing information on intelligence sources and methods. I have a task force at work on the development of systematic review guidelines, and, as provided in the Order, these guidelines will be coordinated with your staff.

The CIA and NARS personnel who have been engaged in the classification review of 30-year-old records mandated by the old Executive Order 11652 have become increasingly conscious of the hazards which attend the review process. The evaluation of documents to identify information which may reveal intelligence sources and methods has proved to be extremely difficult and demanding even for experienced intelligence officers. This experience leads to some uncertainty about the degree to which we may be able to entrust the final review of intelligence records to individuals without intelligence experience. Such concerns cannot be ignored, but they do not in any way call into question the importance of carefully drawn, consistent declassification guidelines. However the process is to be carried out, such guidelines will be essential to its success.

In this important undertaking I look forward to continuation of the close cooperation which has characterized the relationships between NARS and CIA during the past several years. Our staffs must continue to work closely on the development of guidelines and procedures which facilitate the declassification of a maximum amount of information while protecting essential national security data.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frank C. Carlucci

Frank C. Carlucci

The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Eighth and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20408

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Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

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